UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

*********************** release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

McMillan or Flanagan - Int. 5634

For Release to PM's, JULY 3, 1962

INTERIOR MEMBERS APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE ON FISHING VESSEL CONSTRUCTION

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has appointed six Department of the Interior officials to represent the Department on the joint Congressional-Interior Committee on Fishing Vessel Construction.

They are Donald L. McKernan, Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; Harold E. Crowther, Assistant Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (alternate); Charles H. Vaughn, Assistant Solicitor for Fish and Wildlife, Office of the Solicitor; Max N. Edwards, Legislative Counsel, Office of the Secretary; Thomas D. Rice, Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Fish and Wildlife; Ralph Curtiss, Resources Staff Officer (Legislation), Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; and C. E. Peterson, Chief, Branch of Loans and Grants, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Congressional committee members, announced earlier, are August J. Bourbon of the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, and Capt. Paul Bauer, staff member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

The joint committee will review the Fishing Vessel Construction Differential Subsidy Program, authorized by P.L. 86-516, which is due to expire in 1963, and will discuss the overall problems in the fishing industry in efforts to find solutions.

The cost of constructing fishing vessels in certain foreign countries is 40 to 50 percent lower than in American shippards, but Federal laws prohibit American fishermen from purchasing foreign-built vessels for use in domestic fisheries. The Fishing Vessel Construction Differential Subsidy Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to pay up to one-third the cost of building a new fishing vessel, provided certain requirements are met. To be eligible for a subsidy, a vessel must be designed to operate in a fishery which has received a finding of injury because of increased imports. The New England groundfish fishery is the only one now meeting this requirement.

The committee will discuss developments since the program has been in effect, the operation of the program, the need for expanding or modifying the vessel-construction program, and methods of providing assistance to the fishing industry through construction of new fishing vessels.

ххх